

4. Notes on several rare Palearctic Birds.

By H. E. DRESSER, F.L.S., F.Z.S.

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Some time ago Professor Menzbier of Moscow forwarded to me the type of his *Gecinus flavirostris* to compare with Mr. Hargitt's type of *G. gorii*. This, on comparison, Mr. Hargitt found to be conspecific with his species, so that his name of *gorii* becomes a synonym of *G. flavirostris*. He then told me that he was very desirous to examine a specimen of Dr. Radde's *Picus minor*, var. *quadrifasciatus* (Orn. Cauc. p. 315, pl. xix. fig. 5), which he thought would probably prove to be a good species, and which he had included in the Cat. B. Brit. Mus. (xviii. p. 256), as such, under the name *Dendrocopus quadrifasciatus* (Radde). I therefore wrote to my friend Dr. G. Radde, who at once most courteously forwarded to me one of his type specimens, which I now exhibit. Directly I received it I wrote to Mr. Hargitt to arrange a meeting so that we could compare it together, and received a reply from Miss Hargitt to say that her brother was ill and confined to his bed. From this, unfortunately, he never again rose, and we all have to mourn the loss of an excellent ornithologist and certainly our best authority on the Woodpeckers.

Owing to Mr. Hargitt's death I have had to compare the specimen in question myself, and, as will be seen, it has, as stated by Dr. Radde, only four white transverse bands on the wing, instead of five as is usually the case in *P. minor*; but on the one wing the fifth bar is present though only slightly developed. I have here several specimens of *P. minor* from Northern Europe for comparison, and two of these have, as will be seen, only four bars on one wing and five on the other. Hence it would appear that *P. quadrifasciatus* is only a variety of *Picus minor*, with which it agrees closely in every other respect except that it is somewhat smaller in size, measuring culmen 0.61 inch, wing 3.5, tail 2.05, and tarsus 0.6. The underparts are also somewhat brown in tinge, but not browner than in several other North-European specimens of *P. minor*.

Besides the specimen of *P. quadrifasciatus*, Dr. Radde sent his type specimen of *Lanius minor*, var. *obscurior* (Orn. Cauc. p. 282, pl. xviii. fig. 2), which I also exhibit, together with several specimens of *L. minor* from Southern Europe. As will be seen, Dr. Radde's specimen differs only in being rather duller in tone of colour, and is, as suggested also by Dr. Radde, merely an individual variety of *L. minor*.

The Pied Flycatcher of the Caucasus, however, of which I have received several specimens, two of which I now exhibit, is a good species, differing both from *Muscicapa atricapilla* and *M. collaris* in having a semicollar and in having much more white on the tail than in either of those species. It was described and figured by Mr. E. F. von Homeyer under the name of *Muscicapa semitorquata* (Zeitschr. d. gesamt. Orn. 1885, p. 185, pl. x.). Mr. Homeyer had before

him six specimens from the Caucasus, all of which agreed closely *inter se* in the characters given, in which this species differs from the other two species of Pied Flycatchers. I have in my own collection a fine adult male of *M. semitorquata* from Turkey, obtained many years ago by the late Mr. Robson; and on examining the series in the British Museum, I find that the specimens from Fao on the Persian Gulf, Bushire, and Persia are referable to this species, and not to *M. atricapilla* nor to *M. collaris*. It would therefore appear that *M. atricapilla* does not range further east than Turkey nor *M. collaris* than Asia Minor, being replaced east of those countries by *Muscicapa semitorquata*.

In conclusion I may add that Dr. Radde has also sent me several Long-tailed Titmice from Lenkoran and Tiflis, all of which are undoubtedly referable to *Acredula caucasica* and not to *A. caudata*.

5. The Skeleton of *Lorius flavopalliatu*s compared with that of *Psittacus erithacus*.—Part I. By ST. GEORGE MIVART, F.R.S.

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In a former paper, read on March 5, 1895, I described the hyoid bones of certain Parrots and, amongst them, compared those of *Lorius flavopalliatu*s with the same parts in *Psittacus erithacus*, having taken the latter as my type and standard of comparison.

The admirable works of Professor Alphonse Milne-Edwards on the Fossil Birds of France and on the Osteology of the Psittaci do not contain figures or descriptions of any species of *Loriidæ*, and the same must be said of Bronn's 'Thierreich' and (with a quite insignificant exception) of Fürbringer's magnificent publication in two folio volumes.

Such being the case, I have thought it worth while to describe in some detail the axial skeleton of a species of that interesting family which may possibly represent a more or less primitive form of the whole Order.

I have selected for description the skeleton of *Lorius flavopalliatu*s, the means so to do having been furnished me by this Society through the courtesy of our Prosector, Mr. F. Beddard, F.R.S. For the purpose of comparison with the skeleton of *Lorius*, I have again chosen that of the type of the order *Psittaci*, namely *Psittacus erithacus*; and I have to thank the late President of the Linnean Society, Mr. Charles Stewart, Hunterian Professor, for the loan of a skeleton of that species, and also Mr. Beddard for a spirit-specimen, the bones of which have been prepared for me by Mr. Ockenden with his wonted skill.

THE CERVICAL VERTEBRÆ.

The *atlas* in *L. flavopalliatu*s (fig. 1) has its pseudocentrum distinctly and largely perforated towards the dorsal part of its articular